

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT  
FACT SHEET  
May 1, 2001**

**Purpose:** To consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposals.

**TRIBAL SPRING CHINOOK MANAGEMENT**

- The TAC met on April 30 and updated the upriver spring chinook run size. The updated run size is now forecasted to be 400,000 at the mouth of the Columbia with 375,000 expected at Bonneville Dam.
- Treaty fisheries for 2001 will now be managed according to the Interim Management Agreement to not exceed a 13% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- Given the current forecast, the tribes expect to harvest 52,000 spring chinook. The Tribes have chosen to utilize their harvest in three fishery sectors: A ceremonial gillnet fishery, a subsistence platform fishery, and a commercial fishery.

<i>Treaty Fishery Impacts For Upriver Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Catch Expectation to date	Projection to end of spring season
Ceremonial Gillnet Fishery (through 4/15)	6,800	6,800
Subsistence Platform Fishery (through 4/16)	1,970	3,500
First Commercial Fishery Opening (4/17-4/19)	17,880	17,880
Second Commercial Fishery Opening (4/26-4/28)	15,370	15,370
Remaining Available Harvest	9,980	8,450
Total	52,000	52,000

**STOCK STATUS**

- Preseason expectation was for a return of 364,600 spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam.
- Through April 30 a total of almost 310,000 adult spring chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- TAC will meet again on May 7 and may update the run at that time.
- The spring chinook run typically peaks at Bonneville Dam during mid to late April. The run appears to have peaked on April 18. However the dam counts have dropped sharply and the

run no longer appears to be closely tracking the pattern seen in 1977. TAC has been comparing the run to other years as an aid in predicting this year's run size.

## **ZONE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSAL**

- The tribes will propose a commercial gillnet fishery opening that is projected to harvest up to 5,000 - 7,000 spring chinook. This opening combined with the other fishery impacts to date will not exceed the total allowable impacts for the tribal fishery.

<i><b>Proposed Commercial Fishery</b></i>	
Area:	All of Zone 6
Dates:	6:00 AM Friday May 4 to 6:00 PM Saturday May 5
Restrictions:	Allowable sales include chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, and shad. Commercial sales of platform caught fish are allowed during commercial openings. Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet may be retained for subsistence use. All standard sanctuaries remain in effect with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary at this time of year.

- Additionally, the tribes will continue allowing commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish. Because the platform fishery has not been catching many fish, the tribes do not expect the total harvest (subsistence and commercial) from the platform fishery to exceed 3,500 through the end of May. Tribal staff will continue to monitor the platform fishery and adjust the total catch estimate if necessary to not exceed the total allowable impacts.
- The steelhead impacts from the first two commercial openings were 200 fish. Monitoring information to date suggests that the majority of steelhead harvested so far this year have been holdovers from the 2000 run. Only a very small proportion of the 2001 summer steelhead run has entered Zone 6 so far. The tribes anticipate low steelhead impacts in future commercial openings.
- The tribes intend to use an aerial survey to measure effort during the next gillnet opening. The catch sold to buyers will be sampled for CWT's by state staff.
- Based on tribal staff monitoring, the platform fishery has not been performing as expected. This appears to be because of extremely low flows and no spill. The fish appear to be migrating in the mid-channel making them relatively inaccessible to platform fishers.
- After this opening, the tribes may propose additional fisheries dependant on the number of fish left available for harvest.

## **NON-INDIAN FISHERIES**

### ***Spring Chinook Management***

- Non-Indian fisheries for 2001 will be managed not to exceed a 2% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- At the February 20, 2001 hearing the Compact gave guidance concerning allocation of upriver spring chinook impacts for non-Indian fisheries.
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<i>Non-Indian Fishery Impacts For Upriver Wild Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Guideline	Current Update
Winter Season Commercial Fishery	0.5%	0.41%
Mainstem Sport Fishery	0.8%	0.90%
Spring Commercial Tooth Net Study	0.4%	0.20%
Other Non-Target Fisheries	0.3%	0.28%
Total	2.0%	1.79%

### ***Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery***

- Mainstem Columbia River from mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to OR/WA border is currently closed to spring chinook angling.
- The Joint Staff developed two possible options for a limited spring chinook sport fishery in the Zone 6 management area.

### **FISHERY OPTIONS**

<i>Option 1</i>	
Area:	Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam.
Dates:	Open effective Sunday May 6 through Wednesday May 9
Catch Restrictions:	All adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and shad may be retained. Non-adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead must be released unharmed.
Expected Catch:	1,300-2,000 chinook caught
Upriver wild impacts:	0.035 - 0.053 %

<i>Option 2</i>	
Area:	The Dalles Dam upstream to McNary Dam.
Dates:	Open effective Sunday May 6 through Thursday May 10
Catch Restrictions:	All adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and shad may be retained. Non-adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead must be released unharmed.
Expected Catch:	700-1,000 chinook caught
Upriver wild impacts:	0.019-0.029%

- Both options provide an opportunity to collect data concerning effort level and catch rates associated with a spring chinook sport fishery in the Zone 6 management area.
- Both options provide opportunity for portion of river that has been closed since January 1.
- Both options would remain within the 2% non-Indian impact rate on upriver spring chinook.
- Impacts on upriver wild spring chinook would be low at 0.05%.
- Either option would require additional upriver spring chinook impacts.

### ***Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery***

- The mainstem Columbia River is scheduled to open for adipose fin-clipped summer steelhead effective May 16 below the I-5 Bridge and effective June 16 above the I-5 Bridge as per permanent regulations.
- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line is closed to steelhead angling through July 31 as per permanent regulations.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
✓	Allow the retention of sockeye and jack chinook during summer steelhead sport fisheries effective May 16 through July 31 in the mainstem Columbia River between Tongue Point/Rocky Point line and the I-5 Bridge and June 16 through July 31 in the mainstem Columbia River between the I-5 Bridge and the OR/WA Border.

- Expected run size is 93,800 sockeye entering the Columbia River which allows for a 1% impact on Snake River sockeye for all non-Indian fisheries.
- Fishery would allow for anglers to keep surplus sockeye and jack chinook incidentally caught during summer steelhead sport fishery.
- Expected sockeye catch would be less than 100 fish.
- Expected sockeye impacts would be less than 0.1% which would be well below the non-Indian impact limit of 1%.
- Jack chinook are not included in escapement goals for hatchery brood stock needs and are not included in ESA impact limits.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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